

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 845320RFW	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/10349	International filing date (day/month/year) 15/09/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 17/09/2002
Applicant GLAXOSMITHKLINE BIOLOGICALS S.A.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 7 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23 1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing.

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

ARTICLE HOLDING MEANS AND CONVEYOR SYSTEM

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

as suggested by the applicant.

because the applicant failed to suggest a figure

because this figure better characterizes the invention.

6

None of the figures.

INT'L NATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP 03/10349

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC 7 B65G17/32 B65G17/46 B65B3/00 B65B31/08 B65B55/02 A61J1/00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B65G B65B A61J		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 02 064439 A (PY DANIEL C) 22 August 2002 (2002-08-22)	1-4,10, 11,14
Y	column 5, line 25 -column 6, line 42; figures 2,9,10	17-23, 25-28, 30,31
Y	US 3 881 763 A (BENSON NORMAN E) 6 May 1975 (1975-05-06) cited in the application page 16, line 6 - line 11	17-21,23
A	EP 0 213 690 A (PACKARD INSTRUMENT CO INC) 11 March 1987 (1987-03-11) figures 1,2	1
A	US 3 092 237 A (MILLER HARRY L) 4 June 1963 (1963-06-04) figures 1,2	1,14,20

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.
<p>* Special categories of cited documents :</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"8" document member of the same patent family</p>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 22 March 2004		Date of mailing of the international search report 12.04.2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.O. 5011 Patentbox 2 NL - 22801-IV Rijswijk Tel: (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 ext. 494, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Lawder, M

INT'L NATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/EP 03/10349

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 558 200 A (KRISMANTH KENNETH A ET AL) 24 September 1996 (1996-09-24) figures 4,5 ---	1,14
Y	US 2 503 147 A (NORMAN APPLEZWEIG) 4 April 1950 (1950-04-04) column 6, line 48 - line 53; figure 4 ---	22
A	US 6 360 794 B1 (TURNER TERRY D) 26 March 2002 (2002-03-26) column 9, line 1 - line 12; figure 5 ---	22,23
A	DE 199 16 662 A (BOSCH GMBH ROBERT) 19 October 2000 (2000-10-19) column 1, line 64 -column 2, line 25; figure 2 ---	22,23
X	US 6 098 676 A (POYNTER RICHARD Q ET AL) 8 August 2000 (2000-08-08) column 3, line 20 -column 4, line 43; figure 1 ---	24
Y	---	25-28, 30,31
A	EP 0 096 336 A (ZANASI SPA) 21 December 1983 (1983-12-21) the whole document -----	24

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/10349

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 02064439	A	22-08-2002	US	2002023409 A1		28-02-2002
			BR	0116879 A		17-02-2004
			CA	2449704 A1		22-08-2002
			EP	1370471 A1		17-12-2003
			WO	02064439 A1		22-08-2002
			US	2003159750 A1		28-08-2003
US 3881763	A	06-05-1975		NONE		
EP 0213690	A	11-03-1987	AU	6119686 A		05-03-1987
			EP	0213690 A2		11-03-1987
			FI	862472 A		01-03-1987
			JP	62055586 A		11-03-1987
US 3092237	A	04-06-1963		NONE		
US 5558200	A	24-09-1996	AU	2430395 A		29-11-1995
			WO	9529860 A1		09-11-1995
US 2503147	A	04-04-1950		NONE		
US 6360794	B1	26-03-2002		NONE		
DE 19916662	A	19-10-2000	DE	19916662 A1		19-10-2000
US 6098676	A	08-08-2000	US	5947170 A		07-09-1999
EP 0096336	A	21-12-1983	IT	1156605 B		04-02-1987
			AT	31270 T		15-12-1987
			DE	3374853 D1		21-01-1988
			EP	0096336 A2		21-12-1983
			JP	59040859 A		06-03-1984

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/10349

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/10349

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

Holding means (10) for holding an article (40) onto a conveyor system, particularly for holding pharmaceutical vials onto a conveyor system (60) for performing a filling and sealing operation thereon. The holding means bears downwardly on the article. A conveyor system incorporating the holding means is also provided. In a further aspect an aerodynamically shrouded processing station (80, 81) for use with the conveyor is provided which minimises disruption of a downward laminar flow of purified air (100).

International Application No. PCT/EP 03/10349

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-21,23

Holding means for an article and conveyor system, the holding means comprising a base part and a grip part.

2. Claims: 22,23

Conveyor system and process for filling a vial through a hollow needle.

3. Claims: 24-31

Processing station for performing an operation on an article in a laminar flow of purified air, an aerodynamic shroud being placed around the processing apparatus.